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FORCE WORKS

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FIELD OF BROKEN DREAMS!

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AND I'VE INSTRUCTED PLATO TO PLAY THIS RECORDING SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO ME.

I HAVE NO IDEA UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES YOU ARE LISTENING TO ME. IN FACT, I HAVE NO REAL IDEA WHO I AM ADDRESSING.

EXCEPT I HOPE THAT IT'S FORCE WORKS.

BRIEFING ROOM...

I AM RECORDING THESE WORDS ON THE DAY OF THE TEAM'S FOUNDATION. JUST AN HOUR AGO, SCARLET WITCH, SPIDER-WOMAN, U.S. AGENT, AND WONDER MAN AGREED TO BE PART OF THE TEAM.

I HOPE THAT THEY ARE ALL LISTENING TO THIS, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND THE LINEUP MAY HAVE CHANGED.

MEDI-BAY...

SO WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU MUST'VE BEEN MY TEAMMATES. AND MY FRIENDS TOO, I HOPE. I WANT TO THANK YOU NOW, FOR BEING PART OF THIS PROJECT, AND BELIEVING IN THIS CONCEPT.

KNOWING ME, I'VE PROBABLY NEVER BOTHERED TO TELL YOU THAT IN PERSON.

BEYOND THAT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... EXCEPT THAT NO MATTER HOW YOU FEEL TODAY, THE FUTURE IS ALWAYS BRIGHT. THERE ARE ALWAYS POSSIBILITIES...

TECHLAB...

STAN LEE PRESENTS

FORCE WORKS

AFTERIMAGE

DAN ABNETT & ANDY LANNING
STORY

YANCEY LABAT & ANDREW WILDMAN
PENCILS

REY GARCIA SANDU FLOREA SERGIO CARIELLO
INKERS

JACK MORELLI
LETTERS

IAN LAUGHLIN
COLORS

NEL YOMTOV & BOB HARRAS
EDITOR CHIEF

...AND IT IS MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT FORCE WORKS WILL ALWAYS HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN ALL THE BRIGHT FUTURES THAT REMAIN POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU ALL.

KLFKK

oh... my... God.

I SAW HIM FALL, WANDA... IRON MAN GAVE HIS LIFE SO THAT A MULTITUDE COULD LIVE.*

IT WAS AS IF HE FINALLY WANTED TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THE *EVIL* HE HAD HELPED TO UNLEASH. AS WE BATTLED KANG AND HIS FORCES, IRON MAN STEPPED FORWARD TO FIGHT *WITH* US.

THAT WAS EVEN *MORE* PAINFUL THAN I'D FEARED IT WOULD BE.

CENTURY... I... CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S *NOT* COMING BACK!

*CENTURY, FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE AVENGERS, WITNESSED THE DEATH OF IRON MAN (TONY STARK) IN THE MOMENTOUS AVENGERS #395!--Nel

AND WE WEREN'T EVEN *THERE!* AGENT, SPI AND ME -- WE COULDN'T EVEN GET THERE IN TIME TO BE WITH HIM!

I KEEP ASKING MYSELF... COULD WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE? COULD WE HAVE *SAVED* HIM?

COULD WE SOMEHOW HAVE *REDEEMED* TONY STARK?

ELSEWHERE...

...FOUND YOU IN A CRYO-UNIT...IN THE BASEMENT, MISS ENDO. AND WITH PLATO'S HELP, THAWED YOU OUT.

I'M GRATE-FUL, AGENT. LAST THING I REMEMBER IS GETTING OFF A FLIGHT AT L.A. INTER-NATIONAL...*

*IRON MAN #321. --Nel

SOME-ONE MUST'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME...

THAT SOMEONE'S RIGHT IN HERE...

LIKE I SAID, SUZI --

--BRACE YOUR-SELF.

SUZI ENDO... MEET SUZI ENDO!

Oh, my!

'COURSE SHE CALLED HERSELF CYBER-MANCER.

SEEMS STARK HAD ACCESS TO *TIME CORRIDORS*, THANKS TO KANG. THIS IS A *POSSIBLE FUTURE YOU* HE BROUGHT BACK TO ASSIST HIM.

NO! I COULD *NEVER* BECOME SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

THE THINGS YOU TOLD ME *SHE* DID, AGENT! THAT'S NOT *ME*!

Oh, MY oh MY--I REMEM-BER BEING THAT NAIVE--*JUST.*

YOU WAIT, SUZI *DEAR*--TEN, TWELVE YEARS TIME, MAYBE *LESS*, THE WORLD GOING TO *HELL* IN A *HURRY*, WARS LIKE YOU'D NOT *BELIEVE*... *MILLIONS* DYING...

THEN DECIDE WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF BEING.

OH, I BALKED AT IT AT FIRST... THE BIO-BONDED CYBERNETICS, THE NEURAL HANDWIRING, THE *VIRTUAL FLESH*. BUT THEN I REALIZED WHAT IT COULD *DO* FOR ME.

POWER, SUZI, DEAR. THE POWER TO *SURVIVE*.

NO MATTER *WHAT*.

YOUR LIFE'S WORK IS IMPLANTED UNDER MY *SKIN*, MY DEAR... WOVEN INTO MY VERY *BONES*. CYBERMANCER IS YOUR *SALVATION*, AND YOU WILL WORK FOR YEARS, AND SELL YOUR *SOUL* TO CREATE IT!

NO.

YOU'RE A TECH-NOLOGICAL *TRAVESTY*. YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY THAT THE WORLD THAT *SPAWNED* YOU FORCED YOU TO BECOME WHAT YOU ARE.

BUT TO ME, YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A *TIMELY* WARNING.

BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE. I *KNOW*.

YOU ALL THINK YOU *WON* A GREAT VICTORY OVER KANG. YOU'RE *WRONG*. YOU *DOOMED* YOUR WORLD! ONLY KANG WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO SAVE YOU ERO--

ENOUGH! C'MON--I'VE GOT TO LOCK YOU IN THE BRIG 'TIL THE GUYS FROM THE *VAULT* ARRIVE!

"YOU WON'T BE *ABLE* TO RESIST IT!"

YOU'LL SEE, SUZI DEAR! IT'S IN YOUR *BLOOD*. IT'S YOUR *DESTINY*.

NEARBY...

CENTURY... WAIT UP!

YES, WANDA?

IN EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, I'VE BARELY HAD TIME TO TALK TO YOU SINCE YOU RETURNED FROM YOUR *QUEST.*

*FORCE WORKS #19. --Nel

MY... *QUEST,* AS YOU PUT IT, WAS *CURIOUS/INCONCLUSIVE DISTURBING...*

IF YOU'D RATHER *NOT* TALK ABOUT IT...

*AND YOU CAN READ ABOUT IT IN THE CENTURY: *DISTANT SONS ONE SHOT!* --Nel

IT IS NOT THAT. I WILL GLADLY TELL YOU *EVERYTHING*... WHEN I'VE MADE SENSE OF IT *MYSELF.*

I LEARNED SOME *DARK SECRETS* AND DISCOVERED THE *FATE* OF MY PEOPLE.

MORE THAN ANYTHING I REALIZED THAT MY HOME IS *HERE* NOW, MORE THAN *EVER.*

THEN... WELCOME *HOME.*

DON'T LOCK US OUT, CENTURY. WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS. WE'RE *HERE* FOR YOU.

AND THERE IS SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL YOU, *WANDA MAXIMOFF.* BUT HOW DO I *BEGIN?* FOR EXAMPLE --HOW DO I TELL YOU...

...THAT SOMEHOW, I HAVE FALLEN IN *LOVE* WITH YOU?

TECHLAB...

EXO-WRENCH?

THIS THING?

YEAH, THAT'S TH--

HARDY HAR HAR.

COME DOWN FROM THERE!

DON'T WORRY, FISHER. I'M PERFECTLY SAFE.

DO THIS FOR A LIVING, Y'KNOW.

MAYBE, SPI... BUT WE DON'T KNOW *DIDDLY* ABOUT THAT THING YOU'RE DANGLING FROM.

IT'S PART OF KANG'S TIME-CORRIDOR APPARATUS, FROM THE STUFF STARK HAD *STASHED* IN THE SECRET BASEMENT...

...AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN *INERT* SINCE WE DRAGGED IT UP HERE, BUT I WANT TO DO A FEW MORE CHECKS BEFORE I PASS IT AS *SAFE*.

OKAY. OKAY!

I HAVE TO GET GOING ANYWAY. SAID I'D CALL RACHEL AT MY MOM'S TO SEE HOW SHE IS.

PROBABLY HAS HER GRAND-PARENTS EATING OUT OF HER H--

OOOFFF!!

JULIA!

AGAIN

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?

I DON'T KNOW. THE GATE JUST CHARGED ITSELF. GIVE ME A MINUTE TO FIGURE OUT WHY...

KKKSK

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WE'RE NOT SURE, JACK...

FFFSshhh

Oh, MY GOD-- LOOK!

SOMETHING'S REACHING THROUGH THE GATE!!

FFFFFFsshh hhKKKKKK

WELL, WELL...

...KANSAS THIS MOST SURELY AIN'T.

HOLY--!

SPI--GET TODD TO SAFETY! I DON'T KNOW WHO THE *TALL* GUY IS, BUT THE RUNT IN FRONT IS *ULTRON!*

YOU'RE RIGHT! COME ON, FISHER!!

ULTRON? *ULTRON*?!

AS IN REALLY, *REALLY BAD*?!

WHADDAYA KNOW! THE *PLEBES* HERE HAVE HEARD OF ME!

LOOK OUT!!

Whooaa!!

WHUNNCH

GUUHH!!

UGGKK!

PAFF

DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'VE DECIDED TO SHOW UP HERE AGAIN, ROBOT--

...BUT YOU'LL FIND YOU'RE STILL NOT WELCOME!!

...BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU...

I'VE NEVER HAD THE PLEASURE!

ahhnn!!

FWUNN

TCH

YOU TALK LIKE WE'VE MET BEFORE, CHICKADEE...

FISHER TO CONTROL! WE HAVE AN EMER-GENCY DOWN HERE! WANDA-- RESPOND!!

CUHKK!!

KZ ZZATT

GOOD THING YOU SHUT HIS MOUTH. WE DON'T WANT THE PLACE OVERRUN BY SNIVELLING DO-GOODERS!

QUITE.

NOW HURRY IT UP. WE'VE GOT TO FIND HER, AND--

TZZ-CHOOM

WHO THE--??

JUST ME.

A SNIVELLING DO-GOODER.

I'LL HANDLE THIS FOOL.

YOU GO FIND THE LADY!

CHAOS VAULT, THREE FLOORS UP...

SO SAD TO SEE THE PLACE LIKE THIS...

THE CHAOS VAULT WAS ALWAYS THE HEART OF FORCE WORKS -BUT SINCE WAR MACHINE AND IRON MAN TORE THROUGH HERE THE OTHER NIGHT...

...THE HEART'S IN NEED OF C.P.R.

STILL, THE WORKS IS HEALING ITSELF... SLOWLY. THOSE ENGINE BUGS, MINIATURE ROBOTS THAT TONY DESIGNED, ARE EVERYWHERE ...CAREFULLY REFORMING THE PLACE, ONE PIECE AT A TIME...

PLATO!

I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE, SCARLET WITCH...

SPI? THIS IS WANDA.

FISHER?

CENTURY?

I THINK WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, CENTURY! EVERYONE ELSE IS OFFLINE! MEET ME AT THE ELEVATOR ON DECK THREE!

I HEAR YOU, WANDA!

...BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME SCANNER ABERRATIONS IN THE TECHLAB AREA.

I'M REGISTERING AN INTRUDER ALERT, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. NOTHING'S ACTUALLY PENETRATED THE WORKS FROM OUTSIDE, SO HOW COULD THERE BE AN INTRUDER?

COULD BE A LEGACY OF THE GENERAL DAMAGE. I'LL CHECK IT OUT...

SCARLET WITCH TO U.S. AGENT!

"PLATO! FIND SUZI AND WARN HER AT ONCE!"

MISS ENDO? THE SCARLET WITCH HAS ASKED ME TO SUGGEST YOU STAY IN YOUR ROOM...

"...WE HAVE AN ALERT SITUATION."

CENTURY? CENTURY?

RIGHT BESIDE YOU, SCARLET WITCH.

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?

TZZZZ

KKKK

I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

W-WANDA? WANDA MAXIMOFF?

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

WHO ARE YOU?!

FTSSSS

oh..my...god. Simon? WONDER MAN!

DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ??

YOU'RE ALIVE!

HOW CAN THIS BE?

YOU DIED! ON OUR FIRST MISSION AS FORCE WORKS YOU WERE KILLED IN AN ORBITAL EXPLOSION!*

HOW CAN YOU NOW BE ALIVE?!

*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC FORCE WORKS #1!
--Nel

WANDA! BE CAREFUL! THIS MAY NOT BE--

NO, CENTURY! YOU NEVER *MET* SIMON! I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE! HE WAS LIKE A BRO--

--YOUR SKIN! YOUR FACE! IT'S COLD!

TZZZAKKKK

AND WHY SHOULD IT BE ANYTHING ELSE?!

AGGHH!!

YOU CANNOT BE SIMON WILLIAMS! THE WONDER MAN SHE OFTEN SPOKE OF WOULD NEVER HAVE HARMED HER!

TIMES CHANGE.

WHAT TH--?

PAFF

UUKK!

WOKK

WANDA... IT SEEMS SO STRANGE TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS AGAIN. FORGIVE ME...

...I AM SO USED TO THINKING OF YOU AS DEAD.

TECHLAB...

YOU PICKED THE WRONG DAY TO SHOW UP HERE, RO-BUTT!

FWOK

YOU MAY BE BIGGER AND SLICKER THAN WHEN WE LAST MET, BUT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH OF LATE...

...AND *MAN*, HAVE I BEEN LOOKING FOR A PUNCH-BAG! MY *BLOOD* IS UP, FOIL-FACE...!

YOU'RE *BLEEDING*! BUT-- *HOW*?

YOU'RE A *ROBOT*!

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

A ROBOT? IS THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT I WAS? HAVE THE ULTRONS IN THIS REALITY PROGRESSED NO FURTHER THAN SIMPLISTIC MECHANICS?!

whrrrr-

-ZZZM

I'M A TECHNO-ORGANIC ENTITY, FLEA, AND THAT PHOTON SHIELD WON'T SAVE YOU FROM MY LACERATING CLAWS!

A FIST IS ALL I NEED, BIG-MOUTH!

WHUNKK

YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, YOU SIMPLETON?

I AM SO INFINITELY YOUR SUPERIOR, I CAN'T LOSE!

WHHAMM

GUUUHK!!

ULTRON TO WILLIAMS...

HAVE YOU FOUND HER YET?

SKKRAANNCKK

YES. I'M FREEING HER FROM THE CELLS NOW.

S-SIMON?

MY LOVE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'VE COME FOR YOU. AND ULTRON'S WITH ME. THERE WAS *NOTHING* LEFT FOR US BACK HOME.

OUR TIME WAS *FINISHED*. WE USED THE GATE TO ESCAPE. SUZ...WE HAVE TO MAKE A LIFE FOR OURSELVES IN *THIS* BARBARIC PLACE.

AND WE *WILL*, SIMON. BUT I NEED MY *SUIT* BACK FIRST!

LEAD THE WAY!

WILLIAMS TO ULTRON...

...WE'RE EN ROUTE TO RECOVER SUZI'S HARDWEAR. FOLLOW MY SIGNALS-- JOIN US..!

UNDERSTOOD, BUDDY--

--I'M ON MY WAY!

SSSTSTSTIZZZKK

NEARBY...

MISS ENDO! YOU MUST GET INTO HIDING! I CANNOT RAISE THE FORCE WORKS STAFF, AND I HAVE DETECTED THREE INTRUDERS CONVERGING ON THIS LOCATION.

HIDE? BUT *WHERE*? ISN'T THERE *ANY-THING* THAT I CAN DO?--

--LIKE *FIGHT*?

MISS ENDO. I WOULD *ADVISE* YOU...

MISS ENDO?

I KNOW WHAT SHE SAID. I KNOW THE FUTURE SHE *DAMNED* ME TO...

...BUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME, *THIS* SEEMS LIKE THE *ONLY* CHANCE!

IN THE TECHLAB...

...THE TIMEGATE BUILT BY KANG SPASMS AND SHRIEKS. DEBRIS SWIRLS IN THE LEAKING, TWISTING ENERGY OF *ANOTHER* UNIVERSE DYING BEYOND THE DOOR...

...AND UNLESS SOMEONE NOTICES IT SOON, IT WILL IMPLODE...

...AND TAKE OUR UNIVERSE WITH IT!!

SKSKCHCKKKK

SSS

NEXT:

THE LONG GOODBYE

WHAT CAN WE SAY?

BE HERE.